DECLASSIFIED EXCISE

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FRIDAY
JULY 16, 1954

Mr. de Grace, a security officer from the Embassy, made inquiries of me this morning concerning the character, loyalty, and so forth, of Phil Bonsal and Fisher Howe. I had no difficulty in expressing my confidence in them. It does seem somewhat absurd to have another check made on Bonsal, who has been handling top secret affairs for years, and on Fisher Howe,

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E. and I had lunch with my cousins Natalie and Laura Barney at the former's house in Rue Jacob. This picturesque place, with its Temple of Love in the garden, has sheltered such diverse figures as Marshal de Saxe and his girl friend, Julie de Lespinasse, and Racine. Natalie has occupied it since 1909 and is quite a figure in the literary and artistic life of Paris. She is about to produce a play of her own. Her interests do not seem to run to keeping the house in repair, for it is, according to her, likely to tumble down at any time about her ears. It looks it, but I must say I envy her possession of it.

André de Staercke called me this afternoon and, in connection with his conversation, I sent off the following telegram:

"SENT: SECSTATE WASHINGTON. COLED 8.

"POUCH: Amembassy The Hague UNN
Amembassy Rome UNN
Amlegation Luxembourg (for Bruce - 3 copies) UNN

"INFO: Amembassy Brussels 9
Amembassy London 56
HICOG Bonn 26

"Re: Brussels 41 to Dept July 15.

"1. De Staercke told me this morning Spaak had instructed him to reiterate strong views Spaak expressed yesterday to Alger (reftel). He said Spaak was very disturbed that US-UK agreement ~~on contractuals~~ was being interpreted as an

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'alternative solution' to EDC, and feared that EDC opponents and even Mendès himself might see acceptance US-UK proposal as way to avoid choice with which U.S., U.K., Benelux and Germany had finally faced the French -- accept EDC in its present form or incur unknown hence fearful consequences. Emile Roche, President Radical Party, who saw Mendès briefly before latter's departure for Geneva, expressed same fear to me yesterday.

"2. As reported separately (Embtel 220) some French papers have headlined Secretary's and Churchill's statements as proposing 'alternative solution' and commented that they destroy 'myth' of 'agonizing reappraisal'. Leading opponents of EDC have taken position that France should accept this 'alternative' subject to additional 'guarantees' -- i.e., assurance Frenc veto over any rpt any German rearmament. On the other hand, pro-EDC elements have emphasized that regardless postponement of German rearmament 'for the moment', nobody could prevent unilateral German rearmament once Fedrep sovereignty restored.

"3. Although Spaak is perhaps more vehement than situation justifies, I believe there is real danger that Secretary's letter and Churchill statement will be interpreted as weakening of US-UK position and that those in France who want to continue postponing fateful decision will try to use any talks on this subject as a vehicle. In this situation, I believe we should do everything we can to prevent French from escaping from choice which faces them, and to support the interpretation of pro-EDC and discourage wishful thinkins of anti-EDC group. To this end, I would suggest:

"a. Dept should accept Dillon's recommendation (Embtel 195) that U.S. and U.K. should not rpt not further discuss contractuals with French Government or officials until French Parliament has acted on EDC or until it is

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absolutely clear it cannot act before recess. Approach reported Embtel 194 shows how anxious some French officials are for such a discussion. If approached, suggest we reply that we are awaiting French Parliamentary action on EDC, which we support; that if EDC is not ratified we shall have to reexamine our policies in the light of the new situation; that the London talks dealt only with one urgent aspect of the problem and in no sense proposed an 'alternative solution'; and that we do not wish to enter into any discussions on the subject until we know where France stands on EDC. This is in line with attitude Benelux and FedRep have taken concerning any discussions of 'alternatives' or changes in EDC Treaty.

"b. Dept may wish to take any opportunity which arises to reiterate unofficially (especially to French correspondents in Washington) that U.S. considers EDC only acceptable policy and that possible separate implementation of contractuals in case of French failure to ratify EDC this summer is not rpt not an alternative policy but simply a first step pending a general reappraisal of our European policy. In addition we should do anything we can to give substance to interpretation of pro-EDC elements reported paragraph 2 above. BRUCE."

Dirk Spierenburg came to see me. He had spent a couple of hours with Bourgès-Maunoury discussing Coal and Steel Community questions. He believes the Coal and Steel Community would suffer a great blow if the movement toward a larger European integration were arrested by failure to ratify the EDC treaty. However, he thinks it important that no one confess to skepticism about the permanency of the pool, which he believes is accomplishing valuable work and will survive any disappointments in allied fields.

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Alphand came to dinner with us tonight. He expressed his concern over (1) an article from Geneva in this evening's Le Monde which I had asked the Embassy to telegraph to Washington; (2) the content of the Secretary's letter to the Foreign Relations and Foreign Affairs Committees concerning the Bonn contractuals. I had discussed both these matters with the men at the office this afternoon and intend to comment on them over the week end.

Tommy has been kept constantly and fully informed about the Bourgès-Maunoury-Koenig confrontation. Alphand confirmed the reports that the two opposing sides were not reaching any basis of conciliation of their differing views.

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